

Sophie's world philosophical terms

EXISTENTIALISM – man is responsible for his own actions; existence is more important than essence

EPICUREANISM – pleasure is highest good and pain is greatest evil

STOICISM – accepts status quo; indifference to pleasure or pain

POWER PHILOSOPHY – might makes right

DARWINISM – evolution caused by natural selection; survival of the fittest

NATURALISM – all events can be explained by natural causes and scientific laws

EMPIRICISM – all knowledge comes from what can be perceived by the senses

SOCRATIC METHOD – method of teaching that uses discussion and questioning to reach a logical solution foreseen by the instructor

FREE WILL – doctrine that conduct of the individual is the result of personal choice, not divine forces or fate

ROMANTICS – characterized by idealism, emotion, passion; celebrates freedom of spirit and common man

ENLIGHTMENT – faith in human reason and skepticism for inherent truths

PREDETERMINATION / PREDESTINATION / FATALISM – belief that individual's actions are preordained by fate or divine guidance; no free will

HUMANISM – system in which human interests, values, dignity predominate

UTILITARIANISM – greatest good for greatest number

Key philosophers

cc. 470 - 399 BC **SOCRATES** Greece Rationalist Utilized Socratic method of teaching “**One thing only I know, and that is that I know nothing.**”
“**He who knows good will do good.**”

c.428 - 348BC **PLATO** Greece Rationalist / Dualist Known for the *Myth of the Cave* Student of Socrates “**A state that does not educate and train women is like a man who only trains his right arm.**”

384 - 322BC **ARISTOTLE** Greece Empiricist Student of Plato
Europe’s first great biologist (organized / classified) “**Man can only achieve happiness by using all his abilities and capabilities.**”

1596 - 1650 **DESCARTES** France Rationalist / Dualist Father of modern philosophy and analytical geometry “**I think, therefore I am.**” (**Cogito, ergo sum.**)

1632 - 1677 **SPINOZA** Criticized established religion
Holland Monist / Empiricist Powerful of free speech and religious tolerance

1632 - 1704 **LOCKE** Advocated intellectual liberty, tolerance, equality of the sexes and division of power “**The mind is ‘tabula rasa’, an empty slate.**”

1694 -1778 Free thinker **VOLTAIRE** France Questioned authority
Associated w/Enlightenment “**Tend your own garden.**”
Key philosophers

1711 - 1776 **HUME** Scotland Law of causality cannot be experienced
Agnostic / Empiricist

1712-1778 **ROUSSEAU** France (b. Switzerland) Associated w/Enlightenment Individuals have inalienable rights at birth “**We should return to nature.**”

1724 - 1804 **KANT** Germany Associated w/Enlightenment
Believed in free will Rationalists/Empiricists both partly right

1809 - 1882 **DARWIN** England Naturalist Biologist/Natural Scientist
Evolution of species result of natural selection, (survival of fittest)

1813 - 1855 **KIERKEGAARD** Denmark Existentialist Three life stages:
aesthetic,(lives for moment); ethical, (lives by moral laws); religious, (lives by faith)

1844 - 1900 **NIETZSCHE** Germany Existentialist Strong should not be hampered by weak Supernatural expectations = worthless **“God is dead.”**

1905 - 1980 **SARTRE** France Existentialist Man must create meaning in life; this creates angst